

MAYOR
Anthony DaPrato

CITY OF CARBONDALE, KANSAS
OFFICE OF THE
CITY COUNCIL

PRESIDENT
Ronald Moeller

COUNCIL
Chad Moore
Barbara Martin
Kevin Seals
Holly Hinck



ATTORNEY
Tom Barnes II

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: January 19, 2026

Time: 7:00pm

Location: City Council Room, City Hall

EMPLOYEES
Emily Bessette
~~Dustin Bretsnyder~~
Chief Seals
Ashley Madden
Jonathan Clark

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Anthony DaPrato, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Motion by K. Seals to approve meeting minutes from January 5, 2025, with the correction of council president, 2nd by Martin, all in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Zoning

Rusty Feuerborn was present to discuss two Conex boxes located on the property of Tom Tucker at 405 N Kansas. He requested a three-year permit for temporary storage of his daughters' belongings while she builds a home. There was discussion on other Conex boxes and allowing them. Motion by Hinck to allow the Conex boxes located at 405 N Kansas for one year, 2nd by Moore, all in favor, motion carried.

Tim Mercer would like to extend his zoning permit for a Conex box for one year. They have not begun building on the lot and have purchased different land to build on. He is requesting time so that they can get the box moved to the land. Motion by K. Seals to extend building permit for Tim Mercer for one year for his Conex box, 2nd by Martin,

discussion on how many extensions should be allowed. Moore was concerned with the progress made at the location and why it is being renewed, the Council decided to keep all permits at one year and review on a case-by-case basis, all in favor, motion carried.

The council and zoning had a discussion on ordinance and regulations regarding Conex boxes and that it may need to be reviewed and changed.

Fleming checked in to the Conex boxes at the storage units, and they were approved by the zoning board. Stipulations between industrial and residential will be kept as a base-by-base case for exemptions.

City Park

Park plans should be submitted to the City Office on January 20th, 2026 by GAS.

Library

Heather Garrison was concerned about the contract between KwiKom and the library. KwiKom was to provide the City and Library with free internet for the antenna space on the water tower. The City office has been working with KwiKom on establishing a tower fee that includes the libraries service, and it has been difficult get someone with KwiKom who is aware of the contract. If the library is affected by changing the City services to Mercury, the City Council agreed to pay for the library's internet services, with the understanding that this action does not obligate or bind future City Councils and remains subject to future Council approval.

Garrison Provided the council with an annual report that she submitted for a grant. The library was open for 2,080 hours in 2025. The report also included the number of library cards issued, printed material, Wi-Fi connections, the number of people who walked through the door, etc.

The library is starting prep for the Summer Reading Program.

Maintenance

The water plant computers and SCADA license have been updated. They went from Windows7 to Windows11.

SmartSights needs updated at the water plant to be compatible with recent updates. To upgrade the system, it is \$2,800. Updating the system allows the water plant to talk to the computer system and receive data used for state reports. Motion by K. Seals to approve the SmartSights Upgrade in the amount of \$2,800, 2nd by Moeller, all in favor, motion carried.

The parking lot at the grocery store has been put on hold for better weather. If the hole is left exposed to the cold weather conditions forecasted it will freeze. Maintenance is getting a riser put in for the shutoff valve so that it won't be asphalted over in the future.

Police

Chief Seals applied for a grant and was approved to receive three vests. The vest has been received at no cost compared to the \$6,000 it would have cost. Kansas Surplus received carriers for \$5 and Chief Seals picked up a couple of those.

The Sergeant position has been granted to officer Shultz by Chief Seals. Chief came before the council to get Shultz approved for a raise with her promotion in her position. K. Seals stated that Shultz is currently at \$45,000 and he would like to see her making what the City Clerk makes at \$52,000. No action was taken.

The department needs new weapons. A new 9mm is \$795 each which includes a gun, sites, red dot and holster. The department has \$1,500 worth of trade-in firearms and \$3,200 from selling vehicles. Chief requested an additional \$1,113.30 from the Equipment Fund.

Moeller moved to approve the purchase of guns and ammo in the amount of \$4,313.30 from Charger Arms using the funds from vehicle sales and remainder from the Equipment Fund, 2nd by Martin, all in favor, motion carried.

There has been an officer alert due to residents threatening to shoot officers at 205 S. 4th. This is the address with current code violations that council has been working with. The truck has been backed up against the house and officers have been unable to follow-up due to no contact with the tenant. The vehicle does have one flat tire. Code enforcement has been ongoing since April 2025. Chief clarified the threats were made to the Sheriff's department and not to Carbondale Police Department and by the tenants not the property owner. The court can issue daily fines, and the City has the option to take action through resolution. Abating the property would be the next option. There was discussion on contacting the property owner, who owns the house, as they have not been contacted. Hinck stated that he was in front of the council in November and showed good faith and that she helped him haul off the mattress. Hinck would like to give him more time since he has the truck parked in such a way, backed up against the house. Police have reached out to the renter a couple of times since November. Hinck felt it was a gray area. Chief Seals will get Barnes the information to proceed with the abatement.

Moeller followed up with Chief Seals on previous discussion regarding the activity statistics that were to be compiled and broken down for the City Council.

Hinck asked Chief Seals if there was an officer on duty 24/7 and there is not. Hinck wanted to know how many officers were on payroll. There is five total, two are at academy and McNary is no longer covering shifts. Officers complete Academy the first and third week in February. Once They are back, they will ride with Chief for a couple weeks, and then with senior officers for a couple weeks putting them out on their own in late March early April. Hinck asked why an officer wasn't taking any shifts and it is due to personal things happening in her life. Hinck confirmed that there are only two officers taking shifts and

Chief reported that three officers are covering Chief Seals, Officer Shultz, and Officer Coyle. The part-time officer is not taking shifts and two officers at academy. The part-time officer is being faded out.

The Explorer experienced mechanical issues while officers were at academy. As a result, the vehicle had to be jump-started and left running for several hours to ensure it remained operational. Because there was no nearby Casey's location to refuel the vehicle, the officers paid for fuel out of pocket. Motion by K. Seals to refund Driscoll \$30.00, 2nd by Moeller, all in favor, motion carried.

Peddlers

There was discussion on updating the peddler's ordinance to give a clear outline of background checks. Recently there was a peddler who had a felony charge and was denied a permit. Topeka and Manhattan both have good ordinances. The council was at a consensus for attorney Barnes to draft a peddler's ordinance to give office staff guidelines.

Livestreaming

Audio and camera quality has not been the greatest since the Smart TV went out. Motion by Hinck to purchase Poly Studio Conference System Soundbar for \$459.99, 2nd by Moeller, all in favor, motion carried.

Job Fair

There is a job fair in Topeka that Bessette looked into to help hire maintenance workers if one was not hired by the time of the job fair.

Hinck questioned the hiring process and felt that a council member should be involved in the preliminary interviews prior to the interviewee coming to the council meeting. Hinck felt that the process of the supervisor and office staff doing preliminary interviews left room for nepotism and cronyism, stating when the manager just chooses whoever they want, they end up hiring buddies. Moore stated that the supervisor knows what they are looking for. Department heads should go through the applications and narrow them down to a smaller number to bring a couple to council who they have already approved of and are willing to hire for council to choose from. K. Seals stated that the council is not maintenance and that he relies on Dustin to know that stuff. He would like the supervisor to do the interviews and office staff to be the sounding board. The price of background checks was brought into discussion. The employee handbook needs to be changed if the process is changed. The additional person in the interview is just there to observe, and the supervisor should be the one asking the questions. After interviews the two people interviewing would get together and choose who to bring to the council. The council does not want background checks and drug screens completed prior to bringing them to the council. The background checks cost \$30 each. Moeller does not want four different candidates to be brought to council for one

position. He would like only one or two brought to council for each position. Hinck wants to know where the system is flawed and doesn't feel experience is everything. Moeller pointed out that people are proving they are not reliable by not showing up to the council interviews. Hinck would like to change the interview process to get better candidates in the door. Moore referred back to when council interviewed eight officers one night and they were there past 10:00pm and Chief Seals referred to a time when a special meeting was ten interviewees and not a single one showed up. Panels have been made in the past as well and that didn't work. Hinck would like to have one member of the council be a soundboard within the interview and possibly ask more in depth questions. Attorney Barnes, stating a liaison participate in the interviews as long as they do not violate KOMA. The utility department may select who they would like to interview and include the liaison. Hinck stated she could take time off so that the City can have better employees. Seals explained that pay scales have been adjusted to bring pay to a more competitive level. Chief Seals stated that she could run background checks through TLO for free prior to Council. Hinck stated having a council member participate in the preliminary interviews would hold people accountable for not hiring their family members or buddies. The council was in consensus to make Hinck the liaison for the hiring problem. Hinck confirmed that she could take off work and could attend the job fair. Madden noted that the employee handbook needed to be changed to reflect the new process. The council agreed to a six-month trial for the new hiring process. The council members felt that the application process needs changed to include the disqualifiers for hiring and being eligible for employment. Barnes discouraged it using the State of Kansas as a reference.

After discussion it was decided to draft an application for employment and bring it back to the council. The council was also in consensus to attend the Topeka Job Fair, to be held at 4801 SW Shunga Drive, on February 11, 2026, if necessary.

Local Government Day

Madden and Bessette will be attending Local Government Day on January 18, 2026.

City Leaders Academy is on April 17, 2026. March 15, 2026 is the deadline to enroll. Hinck and Moore do not wish to attend, Mayor DaPrato, K. Seals and Moeller will let office staff know, and Martin would like to attend. Staff will drive up the same day so no hotel will be needed.

Extension Request

Motion by K. Seals to approve extension request, 2nd by Moeller, all in favor, motion carried.

Off Agenda, Follow Up, Notes and FYI

Advantage Computers' invoice for more data is not needed. There are things that should not be backed up that are. K. Seals will come into the office and look at the backups.

Hinck wanted to follow up on the restocking fee from RDR. Bretsnyder was not present to answer.

Water results were in the FYI folder.

Bills

Motion by K. Seals that the council reviewed the bills, 2nd by Moore, all in favor, motion carried.

Adjourn

Moeller moved to adjourn, 2nd by Seals, all in favor, motion carried at 8:36pm.